

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 069153 TOSEC 030067
ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 EB-08
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, EAIR

SUBJECT: TENERIFE AIR DISASTER - SITUATION REPORT 3

SITUATION IN TENERIFE AS OF 0001 HRS EST 3/29/77

1. DEATH TOLL: KLM REPORTS 249 KILLED ON KLMFLIGHT.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WERE FOUR AMERICANS ON THE KLM
FLIGHT. EMBASSY MADRID TO DATE REPORTS 71 SURVIVORS OF
A TOTAL OF 385 TO 412 PASSENGERS AND CREW ABOARD THE PANAM
FLIGHT. THE REST WERE KILLED. ALL INJURED SURVIVORS
HOSPITALIZED AT TWO HOSPITALS IN VICINITY OF SANTA CRUZ
DE TENERIFE.

2. SURVIVORS: OF THE INJURED SURVIVORS, 6 OR 7 ARE IN
INTENSIVE CARE IN TENERIFE IN SUCH CONDITION THAT THEY
CANNOT BE MOVED. FOR THE OTHER 49, PLUS 16 UNINJURED, A
C-141 IS ON ITS WAY FROM RHEIN MAIN A.B. IN THE FRG TO
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LAS PALMAS TO RETURN AS MANY AS POSSIBLE TO THE US. AT
FIRST LIGHT IN TENERIFE 3/29 THE EMBASSY TEAM WILL
ASSESS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE USAF C-130 STANDING BY AT
LAS PALMAS TO LAND AT TENERIFE AIRPORT. IF POSSIBLE THE

C-130 WILL LAND AT TENERIFE AND SHUTTLE AS MANY OF
THE INJURED AS POSSIBLE TO LAS PALMAS WHERE THEY

WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE C-141 FOR THE FLIGHT TO THE US. BROOKE MEDICAL CENTER IN SAN ANTONIO IS STANDING BY TO RECEIVE THE 12 MOST BADLY BURNED VICTIMS, WHO ARE BURNED OVER 50-60 OF THEIR BODIES. ANOTHER 13 VICTIMS ARE ON STRETCHERS AND ABOUT 24 MORE ARE CAPABLE OF SITTING UP.

3. EMBASSY TEAM: THE TEAM FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN

MADRID ARRIVED AT TENERIFE EARLY THE MORNING OF 3/28. THE TEAM IS BASED AT THE HOTEL MENNECY. THEY HAVE VISITED

HOSPITALS WITH THE MEDICAL BURN UNIT FLOWN IN FROM ROTA IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE CONDITION OF SURVIVORS AND COORDINATE ACTION WITH SPANISH AND DUTCH AUTHORITIES. THEY HAVE BEEN IN DIRECT AND FREQUENT COMMUNICATION WITH AMEMBASSY MADRID, WHICH IS COORDINATING US EFFORTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

4. NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD: ARRIVED AT LAS PALMAS, INVITED BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES, 3/28, ACCOMPANIED BY PANAM OFFICIALS, FAA OFFICERS, WALTER REED PATHOLOGISTS AND MEMBERS OF AN FBI IDENTIFICATION TEAM. THEY WERE TRANSPORTED TO TENERIFE BY HELICOPTER AND HAVE COORDINATED THEIR INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES.

5. MILITARY MEDICAL TEAM: A C-130 IS CURRENTLY ON UNCLASSIFIED

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STANDBY AT LAS PALMAS. THE BURN TEAM HAS BEEN IN TENERIFE SINCE EARLY 3/28. THE C-141 WILL TAKE VICTIMS TO THE US.

6. THE DEAD: EMBASSY MADRID REPORTS THAT SPANISH AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED NOT TO WAIVE SPANISH LAW REQUIRING BURIAL OR EMBALMENT WITHIN 48 HOURS. THE SPANISH HOPE TO HAVE ALL BODIES, WHICH TOTAL ABOUT 80 OF THE TOTAL PASSENGER LISTS, EMBALMED BY DUSK 3/29. IDENTIFICATION WILL PROCEED WITH EMBALMENT. UNIDENTIFIABLE BODIES (ESTIMATED TO BE 50 OF TOTAL) WILL BE SHIPPED TO US AND NETHERLANDS FOR FURTHER ATTEMPTS AT IDENTIFICATION.

7. WORKING GROUP: THE GROUP IS CONTINUING AROUND THE CLOCK TO HANDLE INQUIRIES FROM FRIENDS, RELATIVES OF VICTIMS, PROVIDE REPORTS TO MEDIA AND COORDINATE ACTIONS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY, THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER AND OTHER INVOLVED AGENCIES. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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